

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: 04 (5)-001

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1700387.011

Medium: Computer Image File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: Not applicable

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification: Objectionable.

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 07 August 2017

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 04 August 2017

Summary of reasons for decision:

The image is a cartoon depicting a character from 'The Simpsons' television show committing sexual violence against another character. Despite the satirical nature of the image and its cartoon format, the humorous aspect is overwhelmed by the explicit, sexualised nature of the image. It is clear the image is intended for the sexual arousal of adults as well as humour. As such it presents the clear potential for attitudinal harm. There is a strong likelihood of injury to even an adult audience from the trivialisation of such behaviour and attitudes, which is likely to have a detrimental effect on wider society. The classification of objectionable interferes with the right to freedom of expression as affirmed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990, but is justifiable given the high risk of injury to the public good which cannot be adequately prevented by an age restriction.